

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

REC'D 15 MAR 2005

PCT

PCT

To:

WRAY & ASSOCIATES  
Level 4 The Quadrant  
1 William Street  
PERTH WA 6000

## WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 10 MAR 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
114161:JHK

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
**PCT/AU2005/000223**

International filing date (day/month/year)  
18 February 2005

Priority date (day/month/year)  
19 February 2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
**Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> B25B 27/18, 23/08 B23P 19/04, 19/06**

Applicant  
**WELD-NUT PTY LTD et al**

### 1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

### 2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

### 3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU  
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE  
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA  
E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au  
Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929

Authorized Officer

**SARAVANAMUTHU PONNAMPALAM**  
Telephone No. (02) 6283 2070

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

**PCT/AU2005/000223**

<b>Box No. I</b>	<b>Basis of the opinion</b>
------------------	-----------------------------

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | <p>With regard to the <b>language</b>, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).</p>   |
| 2. | <p>With regard to any <b>nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence</b> disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:</p> <p>a. type of material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing</p> <p>b. format of material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in written format</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form</p> <p>c. time of filing/furnishing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.</p> |
| 3. | <p><input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.</p>   |
| 4. | <p>Additional comments:</p>   |

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

**PCT/AU2005/000223**

**Box No. V      Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <b>1-11</b>	<b>YES</b>
	Claims	<b>NO</b>
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <b>1-11</b>	<b>YES</b>
	Claims	<b>NO</b>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <b>1-11</b>	<b>YES</b>
	Claims	<b>NO</b>

**2. Citations and explanations:**

**NOVELTY (N) and INVENTIVE STEP (IS)**

A. The documents constituting the closest prior art are:

- (i) US 4138909 A
- (ii) US 5125144 A
- (iii) GB 2382790 A

B. The subject matter of claim 1, 6 & 10 differs from these prior art documents in that the stepped configuration presents at least one edge which facilitates welding of the body to the exposed portion of the sheared fastening element received within the cavity.

C. The distinguishing features of the invention will provide an improved extraction device.

D. Therefore the application satisfies the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(2-3), concerning the novelty and inventive step of the independent claims 1, 6 & 10.

E. The criteria concerning novelty and inventive step of claims 2-5, 7-9 & 11 are satisfied because these claims are dependent on claims 1, 6 & 10 respectively.

**INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY (IA)**

The invention defined in claims 1-11 satisfies the criterion set forth in PCT Article 33(4).